

What is claimed is:

1. A printing process employing a printing press comprising a plate cylinder, a blanket cylinder, a dampening roller and an inking roller, and employing a first printing plate material and a second printing plate material each material comprising a hydrophilic support and provided thereon, an image formation layer, the image formation layer at non-image portions being capable of being removed with dampening water or printing ink, the process comprising the steps of:

(a) mounting the first printing plate material on the plate cylinder;

(b) carrying out printing by supplying dampening water and printing ink to the first printing plate material with the dampening roller and the inking roller, whereby the printing ink was transferred from the printing material onto a printing paper sheet through the blanket cylinder, the blanket cylinder contacting the first printing plate material;

(c) then washing the surface of the blanket cylinder with a cleaning solution;

(d) drying the washed surface of the blanket cylinder;

(e) dismounting the first printing plate material from the plate cylinder;

(f) mounting the second printing plate material on the plate cylinder; and

(g) carrying out printing by supplying dampening water and printing ink to the second printing plate material with the dampening roller and the inking roller, after the step (d).

2. The printing process of claim 1, wherein the step (e) is carried out between the steps (b) and (c), or during or after the step (c).

3. The printing process of claim 1, wherein the step (e) is carried out during or after the step (d).

4. The printing process of claim 1, wherein the drying is carried out by wiping off the residual cleaning solution on the blanket cylinder surface with dry cloth.

5. The printing process of claim 1, wherein the drying is carried out by spraying warm air or cold air onto the blanket cylinder surface to eliminate the residual cleaning solution on the blanket cylinder surface.

6. The printing process of claim 1, wherein the drying is carried out by carrying out printing without supplying dampening water or printing ink, whereby the residual

cleaning solution on the blanket cylinder surface is transferred onto a printing paper sheet.

7. The printing process of claim 1, wherein the process further comprises the step of forming an image on the printing plate material between the steps (a) and (b).

8. The printing process of claim 7, wherein the image formation is carried out by imagewise exposing the printing plate material to infrared laser.